



Jewel & Esk College Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2011 - 2015



Mission

The primary role of the College is to make learning an enriching and lifelong experience in the communities we serve.

Our Environmental Sustainability Strategy seeks to support this mission by striving to make Jewel & Esk a more environmentally aware, energy efficient and cost effective organisation that meets its environmental, ethical and social responsibilities.



Aim

Our over-arching aim is to influence and shape our organisation so that it will be recognised as demonstrating best practice in environmental and sustainable excellence.

This aim includes the development of sustainable strategies and action plans; achieving the greatest possible carbon reduction and waste efficiency; identifying ways in which we can:

- promote, enhance and develop biodiversity;
- promote ethical purchasing, cultural and social diversity and wider community and social initiatives; and
- develop curricula and pedagogy that will influence students and staff to live and work sustainably.

We will achieve continual improvement through benchmarking, monitoring, audit and review, and report on our progress towards our aims.

We will identify our carbon footprint and seek to reduce its level through a sustainable Carbon Management Programme.

Strategic Aims

Our three strategic aims cover:

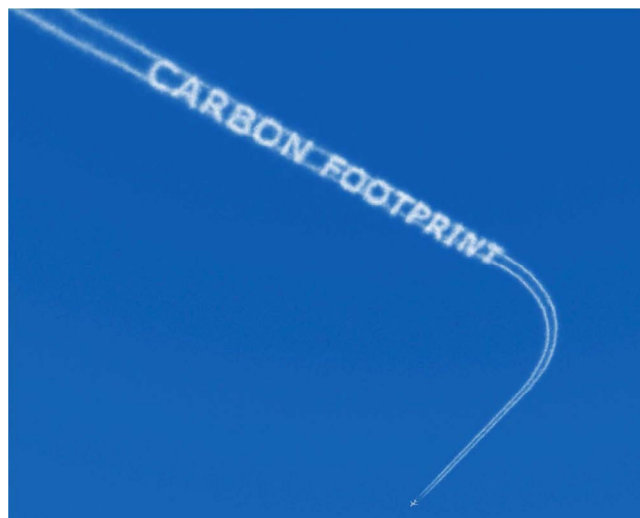
1. Carbon Reduction & Waste Management
2. The Environmental Impact of our Estate
3. Learning & Teaching

Aim 1: Carbon Reduction & Waste Management

To achieve a reduction of 30% in our carbon emissions by 2020 (based upon the College's 2007/08 carbon footprint baseline). We aim to achieve a minimum reduction of 15% carbon emissions by 2015.

To achieve this aim we will:

1. Communicate with staff, students and other stakeholders about the importance and value of carbon and energy efficiency in achieving the College's strategic aim.
2. Produce a Carbon Management Plan for increased energy efficiency and management following an audit review of the College estate. Identify opportunities for using renewable energy sources.
3. Identify and address the key priorities of the Carbon Management Plan so as to minimise associated carbon emissions, and reduce expenditure.
4. Continue to reduce the carbon footprint associated with the College's production and handling of waste.
5. Continue to seek opportunities to reduce the carbon impact associated with travel to and from the College.
6. Where practicable, reduce the carbon impact associated with our business functions including procurement.



Aim 2: The Environmental Impact of our Estate

Improving the environmental impact of our estate aligns itself to many facets of environmental sustainability. We will:

- Reduce our carbon consumables and energy consumption;
- Reduce our quantum of waste, and increase our level of recycle;
- Encourage the use of more sustainable travel;
- Improve our water management credentials;
- Increase our exposure to biodiversity;
- Increase our commitment to sustainable procurement;
- Enhance our Corporate Social Responsibility; and
- Improve environmental sustainability communication.

To achieve these aims we will:

1. Achieve the objectives of our future Carbon Management Plan. Complete energy audits within our buildings and ICT. Install metering in our campuses and encourage the use of good energy management practices. Our objective is to reduce consumption by 3% year on year to 2012.
2. Reduce overall waste by reusing and recycling materials where possible, and increase our level of recycle. Our objectives include a reduction in general waste by 14% (52 tonnes) in 2012, and an associated increase in recycle. A plan will be prepared to reduce our overall quantum of waste, incorporating Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) initiatives.
3. Capture commuter and business travel data for carbon footprint purposes and prepare a three-year travel plan with the intention of reducing our existing carbon footprint. Set targets for an increase in cycle and public transport commuting by staff and students by providing access to public transport information, and implementing travel-saving initiatives such as video-conferencing. Increase the number of lockable cycle storage units. *Provide alternatives to single car occupancy and decrease the numbers of car permits allocated.*
4. Review water management of our college estate and aim to reduce consumption of metered water and implement initiatives to collect and utilise rainwater, reuse grey waste water, thus identifying cash saving initiatives. Following review, set targets for a reduction in water consumption over a period of time.

5. Develop a biodiversity action plan for our estate and utilise the grounds better as an outside classroom and resource for students and staff. Collaborate with other colleges and universities with a view to using students, graduates and/or placements to develop projects to assist us with future biodiversity schemes.
6. Ensure that the College commits funds in as environmentally and socially responsible a manner as is possible, whilst also supporting ethical practices. This will include, where practicable, procurement, estates works, and building works.
7. Include social and ethical considerations in ways that are beyond our core remit of education and training. Identify opportunities for greater work involvement with the local community and local businesses to help promote the ethos of environmental sustainability.
8. Ensure a regular flow of information to engage and inspire our staff and students to support and participate in this Strategy. Improve our environmental reporting, our “Sustainability” website, and work towards accreditation through gaining awards from environmental groups.



Aim 3: Learning & Teaching

To achieve this aim we will:

1. Review the current levels of environmental and sustainable learning and teaching (in 2010/11).
2. Provide flexible opportunities for College students and staff to engage in learning about sustainable development.
3. Promote the expansion of “sustainable literacy” within programmes and courses.
4. Explore options for including sustainability courses as an integral part of the College curriculum.
5. Ensure Learning and Teaching materials are available on-line as a means of saving paper resources.
6. Ensure waste materials, as a by-product of courses taught (i.e. food; vehicle oil waste; construction materials waste; etc), are disposed of using environmentally efficient and effective methods.
7. Ensure the curriculum promotes environmentally-conscious working methods and helps us develop environmental awareness within our students of the future.



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